

CAREERS IN MINERAL RESOURCES

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS SPECIALIST

What's a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Specialist?

GIS specialists make maps using digital technology. Working side by side with other people in earth sciences, they create maps that depict a variety of features on the earth. They accumulate data from various sources (other maps, aerial and satellite photographs, sketches from field notes, etc.). They then process the data into digital format and prepare final maps.

Working Conditions

GIS specialists generally work office hours Monday to Friday. The work is done in an office environment at a computer workstation. The physical demands of the work are light, however, because of the detailed nature of the work, good eyesight is generally required. One must be physically capable of performing the duties assigned.



Training Required

Courses at the university and college levels on GIS with some additional courses in basic computer science. A number of colleges and universities outside Manitoba also have specific GIS courses. High school students should include basic programming, geology and geography in their areas of study.

GIS Specialist Q & A

What kinds of employers hire GIS specialists?

- Governments (Federal, Provincial, Civic)
- Private Mapping Agencies
- Petroleum Companies
- Consultants
- Educational Institutions
- Mining Companies

What is the salary range for GIS specialists?

Provincial government salaries range from \$48,000 to \$80,000.
Private sector salaries range from \$50,000 to \$90,000.

Where can I get more information on becoming a GIS specialist?

For information on institutions offering academic courses in GIS, visit your local library's reference department for institutions' calendars or contact:

Assiniboine Community College – Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
204-694-7111 / assiniboine.net/programs/geographic-information-systems-gis

Department of Geography, University of Winnipeg
204-786-9278 / www.uwinnipeg.ca/geography/index.html

Department of Earth Sciences, University of Manitoba
204-474-9371 / www.umanitoba.ca/geoscience

Manitoba Geological Survey
204-945-1119 / 1-800-223-5215 / manitoba.ca/minerals